

Biotechnologies towards Sustainable Development in Malaysia

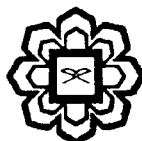
Zarina Zainuddin

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Zarina Zainuddin



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Chapter 1

Bioethics and biotechnology: A holistic approach in Islamic perspectives

*** Ahmed Jalal Khan Chowdhury, Zaima Azira Zainal Abidin, Zarina Zainuddin and**

Suzannah Abdul Rahman

**Corresponding author: jkchowdhury@ium.edu.my*

Introduction

The most modern techniques in biotechnology owe their existence to the discovery of DNA cloning and the genetic manipulation of organisms is exciting. However modern day's techniques biotechnology is not a new science. In fact, many applications represent old practices with new methodologies (William and Michael, 2004). So, one way of thinking about biotechnology is to consider two categories of activities: those that are traditional and familiar and those that are relatively new. Within each category can be found technologies that are genetic—that involve modifications of traits passed down from one generation to the next—and technologies that are not. Although there are interesting issues connected with a number of biotechnologies such as old and new (Jalal and Irwandy, 2008). Traditional breeding technologies have been immensely successful, and indeed are largely responsible for the high yields associated with contemporary agriculture. These technologies should not be considered passé or out of date. For multigene traits like intrinsic yield and drought resistance, they surpass genetic engineering. This is because selective breeding operates on whole organisms—complete sets of coordinated genes—while genetic engineering is restricted to three or four gene transfers